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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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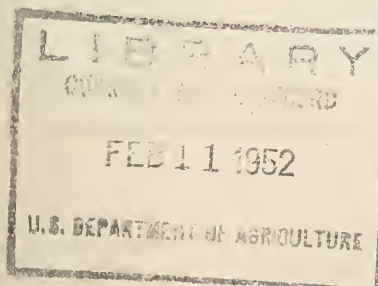
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Production of cotton in French Equatorial Africa from the 1951-52 crop now being picked may reach 125,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), according to unofficial sources. The 1950-51 crop estimate has been revised downward slightly from 100,000 to 93,000 bales as a result of unfavorable weather conditions and insect damage.

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The most recent official estimate places 1951-52 production of cotton in French Morocco at 5,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), more than double the 2,300 bales produced in 1950-51. Picking of the cotton, which is largely irrigated, is completed in September. The crop consists primarily of the long staple Pima 76 variety, although some experimentation has been undertaken in recent years in the unirrigated areas with medium staple American Upland type cotton of the Acala variety.

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1951-52 production of cotton in China is unofficially estimated at 3,193,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), about 37 percent above the 2,330,000 bales produced in 1950-51. The estimate for the current season is far below the goal of 4,467,000 bales set by the Communist Government and the Government's last previous estimate of 4,480,000 bales for 1951-52. The crop has suffered from floods in the northeast, drought and insects in the north and unfavorable weather in the east and south central region.

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The Peruvian Government reduced the export tax on Pima cotton (decree of November 19, 1951) by 110 soles per Spanish quintal (7.07 cents a pound) by increasing the allowance for cost of production that is used as a base for calculating the tax. The tax on Tanguis and other varieties apparently are not affected.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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TOBACCO**MADAGASCAR'S TOBACCO
PRODUCTION HIGHER**

Madagascar's 1951 tobacco crop is estimated at 15 percent above the 1950 output, according to J. J. Lebrun, American Consulate, Tananarive.

The country's 1951 tobacco harvest is estimated at 11.7 million pounds from 21,140 acres, compared with 10.2 million pounds from 19,397 acres in 1950. Yield per acre for the 1951 crop is placed at about 580 pounds compared with only 525 pounds in 1950.

**AUSTRALIA'S TOBACCO IMPORTS
AND PRICES INCREASED**

Australia's unmanufactured tobacco imports during January-June 1951 were 5 percent above imports during the comparable 1950 period, according to A. M. Day, Consulate General, Sydney.

Unmanufactured tobacco imports during the first 6 months of 1951 totaled 15.9 million pounds compared with 15.1 million pounds during the same 1950 period. The United States, the most important source, supplied 12.1 million pounds, about 76 percent of the total; Canada, the second most important source, supplied 1.8 million pounds; and Southern Rhodesia, third most important source, supplied 1.7 million pounds. Other countries supplying tobacco during January-June 1951 included the United Kingdom, India, Northern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa, Indonesia, the Philippine Republic, and Cuba.

Following an increase in import and excise duties on tobacco products on September 27, 1951 retail prices of all brands of manufactured tobacco increased 2.8 U.S. cents per ounce, except "Black and White," which increased 3.2 U.S. cents per ounce. All popular cigarette brands increased 1.4 U.S. cents per package of 10 and 2.8 U. S. cents per package of 20 cigarettes. Four special brands, namely, "Du Maurier," "Peter Jackson," "Temple Bar," and "Garrick," increased 3.7 U. S. cents per package of 20. These increases imposed by the Australian Government applies only to new stocks received after October 19, 1951.

FATS AND OILSFATS AND OILS EXPORTS FROM
U. S. RECLASSIFIED

The Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, has issued a new Schedule B, Statistical Classification of Domestic and Foreign Commodities Exported from the United States. The 1952 edition of Schedule B may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., local Collectors of Customs, and Department of Commerce Field Offices in principal cities at a cost of \$3.50 to domestic subscribers and \$4.75 to foreign subscribers.

Altogether the 1952 edition of Schedule B contains approximately 1,100 new commodity classifications. There are 22 classifications for refined vegetable oils and fats, only 3 of which were carried over from the 1949 edition. Separate commodity numbers are provided to differentiate between vegetable oils which are refined but not further processed and vegetable oils which have been treated by secondary processes such as deodorizing, hydrogenating, or winterizing.

Shippers are required to use the new commodity numbers for all declarations filed after December 31, 1951.

MALAYA'S NET EXPORTS OF COPRA
AND COCONUT OIL INCREASE

Exports of copra and coconut oil from the Federation of Malaya during the first half of 1951 totaled 50,468 and 27,436 long tons, respectively, compared with 61,109 and 27,250 tons during the corresponding period of 1950, reports the American Consulate General, Singapore. Imports during the 6-month 1951 period amounted to 46,265 tons of copra and 99 tons of coconut oil against 59,124 and 763 tons, respectively, in 1950. The bulk of the imports in 1951 came from the Republic of Indonesia. Malaya's net exports of 47,595 tons, copra equivalent, represented an increase of 8 percent from the net exports of 44,028 during January-June 1950.

The decrease in copra exports during the first half of 1951 was due principally to diminished buying by Sweden, the Netherlands, Poland, and Norway. Denmark, which took 12,830 tons or one-fourth of the total, the United Kingdom, Italy, Austria, Germany, and France increased their purchases markedly. Czechoslovakia, which was not a purchaser during the first half of 1950, bought 1,405 tons in 1951.

Malaya's best markets for coconut oil during the first half of 1951 were Germany, the Netherlands, Burma, and the United Kingdom.

Copra production during the period under review amounted to 69,700 tons against 66,800 tons in the first 6 months of 1950. Coconut oil production in the same periods was 42,970 and 41,800 tons, respectively. Stocks as of June 30 were reported at 1,783 tons of copra and 2,275 tons of oil.

Copra wholesale prices declined from M\$52.50 per picul of 133-1/3 pounds (U.S.\$292 per long ton) on April 2 to M\$43.50 (\$242) in the first week in May. Following a slight improvement the price dropped again to M\$37.50 (\$209) by the end of June. The price of coconut oil dropped steadily from M\$94 per picul (\$523) f.o.b. to M\$71 (\$395) during the second quarter of 1951.

SOUTH AFRICA'S WHALE OIL OUTPUT FROM SHORE-BASED STATIONS HIGH IN 1951

South Africa's production of whale and sperm oil from Durban shore-based whaling operations in 1951 totaled 14,050 short tons, or almost twice the 1950 output of 7,240 tons, reports A. T. Fliflet, American Consulate, Durban. Production of sperm oil in 1951 amounted to 4,890 tons or about 35 percent of the total output. A total of 2,112 whales were caught by the 17 catcher boats in operation.

Production of whale and sperm oil in 1951 by the second and somewhat smaller shore-based station located near Capetown has not yet been reported. Output in 1950, however, amounted to about 2,900 tons.

Of the total whale oil production in 1951 from the shore-based operations, 6,300 tons were consumed locally and 2,860 tons were exported to Europe. The price of whale oil sold in South Africa is controlled and as of November 21, 1951, was fixed at L95 per long ton (\$237.50 per short ton). Of the quantity exported, 1,960 tons were sold at L124 (\$310), c.i.f., European ports, and 896 tons at L132 (\$330).

Sperm oil exports of 3,215 tons to European countries were sold at prices ranging from L95 to L120 per long ton (\$237.50 to \$300.00). As of mid-November 1951, some 1,680 tons of sperm oil remained unsold.

South Africa's whaling factory ship, the "Abraham Larsen," left Durban for the Antarctic on November 10, 1951, with 16 catchers. Fourteen catchers were expected to engage in the taking of sperm whales from the time of arrival at the grounds until the official opening of the baleen whaling season on January 2, 1952.

According to a report in the Durban press, the British Ministry of Food is to pay L110 per long ton (\$275 per short ton) for the South African and British whale oil output from the 1952 Antarctic operations.

COLOMBIA FREES COPRA IMPORTS; CUTS PLANNED IMPORTS OF LARD

Free imports of copra into Colombia are now authorized, provided the domestic supply is exhausted, reports G. Schuetiner, American Embassy, Bogota. This authority, contained in Decree No. 2559, approved and effective December 13 last, should further enable Colombia to gain relief from the prevailing severe shortage of fats and oils. However, the need for this action became more acute when the National Supply Institute's (INA) earlier projected importation of 400,000 cans of hog lard (see Foreign Crops and Markets of December 17, 1951, page 612) was cut sharply to 200,000 cans (3,725 short tons). This quantity was enroute to Colombia recently.

Authorization for the free importation of copra for the production of vegetable lard, with the payment of corresponding customs taxes, is contingent on the factories buying all the sesame, cottonseed, and other oils of domestic production at the minimum prices fixed by the Colombian Government. The decree provides further that while the production of hydrogenated oils is being developed--factories will be built in 1952--the INA is authorized to import up to about 3,300 tons of hydrogenated oil. This oil will be sold at cost price plus a reasonable commission to the vegetable oil factories in proportion to the production of each factory during the present year.

ICELAND'S WHALE AND FISH OIL PRODUCTION INCREASES

The production of whale and fish oils in Iceland in 1951 is expected to total about 28,600 short tons--some 60 percent above 1950--according to Sidney Sober, American Legation, Reykjavik. The principal increase has been in the production of herring oil.

Iceland's 1951 whaling season was the most satisfactory since whaling was resumed in 1948. Production during the 4-month season reached 2,504 tons of whale oil and 121 tons of sperm oil. Except for about 200 tons No. 3 whale oil (maximum 15 percent free fatty acids), the balance was of No. 1 and No. 2 quality.

Despite a relatively poor fishing season, cod-liver oil production is expected to be higher than in 1950 and may reach 8,800 tons. Likewise, production of ocean perch (rosefish) oil is expected to reach 4,500 tons compared with 3,460 tons in 1950. This oil is produced from the whole fish and commercial reduction of ocean perch was resumed in 1950 after a lapse of many years.

The largest output was herring oil and production in 1951 has been about 12,675 tons compared with 4,760 tons last year.

Icelandic whale and fish oils have found generally favorable foreign markets during 1951. From January through October, whale oil exports, all to the Netherlands, totaled 2,239 tons, and cod-liver oil, about one-half to the Netherlands and one-fourth to the United States,

totalled 5,325 tons. During the same period, 2,214 tons of perch oil was shipped to Norway and Germany and 10,359 tons of herring oil was exported mainly to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

INDONESIA'S 1951 COPRA EXPORTS LARGEST SINCE PREWAR

Indonesian exports of 29,625 long tons of copra during December bring the total for 1951 to 455,483 tons. This is the largest annual volume of shipments since prewar and represents an increase of over 90 percent from the 238,075 tons exported in 1950.

Preliminary data for December indicate that the Netherlands purchased 21,376 tons, Austria 3,000, Sweden 2,625, and Denmark 2,624 tons. Revised figures for November were as follows: the Netherlands-22,018 tons; Norway-5,249; Denmark-8,748; and a total of 36,015 tons.

INDONESIA: Copra exports, 1950 and 1951

(Long tons)

Country	1950	1951 1/
Austria.....	-	3,000
Czechoslovakia.....	-	3,500
Denmark.....	2,624	26,869
France.....	7,345	24,721
Western Germany.....	40,000	82,320
Italy.....	-	500
Netherlands.....	177,981	223,269
Norway.....	2,624	9,310
Sweden.....	5,000	12,248
Switzerland.....	2,500	1,500
United Kingdom.....	-	68,246
Total.....	2/ 238,075	2/ 455,483

1/ Preliminary. Some of these annual data, and the total, differ slightly from the cumulative figures based on monthly reports received by this Office.

2/ Does not include unrecorded shipments to Malaya.

Purchases of copra during December were reported at 45,800 tons--39,400 tons in East Indonesia and 6,400 in West Borneo. Deliveries to oil mills amounted to 6,890 tons. During the year 1951 total purchases aggregated 522,700 tons--447,800 in East Indonesia and 74,900 in West Borneo. Annual deliveries came to 68,000 tons.

MALAYAN PALM OIL PRODUCTION,
EXPORTS DOWN IN FIRST HALF 1951

The Federation of Malaya produced and exported less palm oil but more palm kernels during the first half of 1951 than in the comparable period of 1950, according to the American Consulate General, Singapore.

Estates in the Federation produced 25,400 short tons of palm oil against 29,165 tons in the first 6 months of 1950 and 59,550 tons in the year 1950. Exports during the first half of 1951 and 1950 amounted to 27,313 and 29,895 tons, respectively. Exports for the year 1950 totaled 57,350 tons. The decrease in 1951 was due mainly to the decrease in shipments to the United Kingdom from 28,801 during the first half of 1950 to 25,503 in 1951. However, the decline in total exports would have been even more had not Italy, Egypt, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States increased their purchases.

Imports for the period January-June 1951 increased to 1,327 tons compared with 324 tons in the same months of 1950, as a result of decreased production in the Federation. Total 1950 imports amounted to 635 tons. All imports came from Sumatra.

Palm oil stocks of 4,848 tons at the end of the second quarter of 1951 were down from the 5,109 tons held at the end of the first quarter.

The price of palm oil increased from M\$1,400 per long ton (U.S.\$414 per short ton) f.o.b. Singapore to M\$1,500 (\$443) the first week in April, but dropped rapidly to M\$1,250 (\$370) at the end of June. The contract price with the British Ministry of Food for 1951 was £104-10-0 per long ton (\$261 per short ton) f.o.b.

Palm kernel production in the first half of 1951 was reported at 7,450 tons or slightly larger than the 7,230 tons of the corresponding period of 1950. The total for the year 1950 was 15,055 tons.

Exports of kernels amounted to 6,496 tons compared with 5,542 for the similar period of 1950 and 10,168 for the year. The increase in 1951 was due to increased demand from Denmark, the Netherlands, France and other countries. Sweden and the United Kingdom, however, cut their purchases to some extent. There were no imports of palm kernels during the first half of both 1950 and 1951.

The price of palm kernels during the second quarter of 1951 averaged £75 per long ton (\$188 per short ton) c.i.f. European ports.

MALAYAN PALM OIL PRODUCERS TO RECEIVE HIGHER PRICES

Palm oil producers in the Federation of Malaya are to receive higher prices from the British Ministry of Food for their 1952 deliveries under the long-term buying arrangement, according to the Financial Times and reported by William Kling of the American Embassy, London. The new price is £115 (\$322) per long ton f.o.b. compared with £104-10-0 (\$292.60) for 1951.

The press further stated, "Actual prices, subject to this floor, will be determined quarterly in relation to the average c.i.f. market price of palm oil, less £8 (\$22.40) a ton to bring the c.i.f. price to a f.o.b. basis and then less a discount of 4 percent. Presumably, the market price referred to will be that of, say, Belgian Congo palm oil of comparable quality. Recently Belgian palm oil has been quoted around 16,750 francs (nearly £120 or \$336 a ton). The increase in the Ministry's minimum price is only reasonable in relation to higher production costs, the lower output caused by bandits and bad weather, and the very high free market prices which prevailed for substantial periods this year and last. World market prices of vegetable oils are now much below their post-Korean peak, but if they recover the Malayan producers will be in a position to derive benefit."

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER SHIPMENTS OF MANCHURIAN SOYBEANS THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

Shipments of Manchurian soybeans through the Suez Canal during September-October 1951 totaled 15,179 short tons, according to a report from Port Said. The exports consisted of 2 shipments from the Port of Dairen and were destined for European ports. Total northbound movement of Manchurian soybeans through the Canal during January-October 1951 were 494,485 tons or 16,482,800 bushels. In addition, 7,535 tons of Manchurian soybean oil (equivalent to 50,235 tons or 1,674,500 bushels of soybeans) passed through the Canal during this period (see Foreign Crops and Markets of October 8, 1951, page 375).

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

SOUTH AFRICA REJECTS SEPARATE WOOL MARKETING SCHEME

The Executive Committee of the National Wool growers' Association has rejected a separate wool marketing scheme for South Africa according to Joseph L. Dougherty, American Embassy, Pretoria. This announcement resulted from the meeting held by the Executive Committee in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State on November 28.

Legislation will be required to terminate the South African Wool Disposals Organization which will probably occur during the early sessions of Parliament in Cape Town in February or March. It is expected at the same time that some of the functions of S.A.W.D.O. such as those of a

statistical nature will be transferred to the South African Wool Board. The authority to establish monetary levies will most probably be transferred from the Minister of Agriculture to the Wool Board. This will, however, require the enactment of legislative measures.

It was reported that the Executive Committee considered the suggestion to place the South African Wool Board under the provisions of Marketing Act No. 26 of 1937 but this was rejected.

The marketing of wool, following legislative action to terminate S.A.W.D.O., will be free of any price restrictions and reservations and will be subject only to the laws of supply and demand in the future.

DANISH HOG CENSUS

The Danish hog census on November 3, 1951 showed a reduction in the total hog population of 26,000 head or 0.8 percent, compared to the previous September census. The total number of sows was practically unchanged, but the number of bred sows increased by 14,000 head or 6 percent.

DENMARK: Hog numbers on November 3, 1951 with comparison

Date	Sows		Suckling pigs	Pigs and slaughter hogs	Total <u>1/</u>
	Bred	Total			
			Thousands:		
July 15, 1950	267	401	858	1,936	3,208
September 9, 1950	268	410	879	2,138	3,441
November 4, 1950	268	414	854	2,345	3,627
July 14, 1951	211	340	799	2,049	3,200
September 8, 1951	229	353	732	2,180	3,277
November 3, 1951	243	354	676	2,209	3,251

1/ Includes boars.

Compiled from official sources.

The producers price for pork was again increased by 10 øre per kilo, from 4.40 kroner to 4.50 kroner per kilo (28.9 cents to 29.6 cents per pound) slaughtered weight, effective October 8, 1951.

On November 5, 1951, the weight limit of 60-75 kilos (132-165 pounds) was changed to 60-80 kilos (132-176 pounds). The penalties for overweight and for underweight remained unchanged.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER**COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS**

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U. S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1952	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equiv. US¢ a lb.		
					Spot quo- tation	Export inter- mediate taxes	
Alexandria		Kantar					
Ashmouni, FG.....	1-3	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	116.20	66.90	11.52	
Ashmouni, Good.....	"	"	"	101.20	58.27	11.52	
Ashmouni, FGF.....	"	"	"	92.70	53.37	11.52	
Karnak, FG.....	"	"	"	207.00	119.18	11.52	
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	167.75	96.58	11.52	
Karnak, FGF.....	"	"	"	124.50	71.68	11.52	
Bombay		Candy					
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/810.00	21.49	21.23	
Broach Vijay, Fine.....	"	"	"	2/925.00	24.54	21.23	
Karachi		Maund					
4F Punjab, SG, Fine.....	1-2	82.28 lbs.	"	129.00	47.30	13.85	
289F Sind, SG, Fine.....	"	"	"	129.00	47.30	13.85	
289F Punjab, SG, Fine...	"	"	"	137.00	50.23	13.85	
Buenos Aires		Metric ton					
Type B.....	1-3	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	8500.00	77.11	7.19	
Lima		Sp. quintal					
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2.....	1-1	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not quoted)			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)			
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)			
Recife		Arroba					
Mata, Type 4.....	1-3	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	3/330.00	54.29	2.4% ad	
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)		valorem	
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	"	"	3/450.00	74.04	"	
Sao Paulo							
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	339.00	55.77	3.0% ad	
Torreón		Sp. quintal				valorem	
Middling, 15/16".....	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	4/			
Houston-Calveston-New							
Orleans av.Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	41.53	-----	

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Reported 810.00 (21.49) to 820.00 (21.76—ceiling).

2/ Ceiling price.

3/ Prices received too late for inclusion in last week's table: Recife, December 29, 1951, in cruzeiros per arroba with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Mata Type 4, 330.00 (54.29); Sertao, Type 5, not quoted; Sertao, Type 4, 450.00 (74.04); taxes 2.4% ad valorem.

4/ Price received too late for inclusion in last week's table: Torreón, December 27, 1951, in pesos per Spanish quintal with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Middling, 15/16" 305.00 (34.79); taxes 6.48 U.S. cents.

